

APPENDIX

1. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier [(15)] comprising

a first[,] water impervious membrane [(19)] having a plurality of first through openings [(21,28)] defined therein,

a second[,] water impervious membrane [(22)] arranged opposite to the first water impervious membrane[(19)],

a water absorbing material [(18) being] arranged within one or more spaces [being] defined between the first and second membranes[(19,22)], and

[characterised in that] wherein at least a part of said second water impervious membrane [(22) is of] comprises a material [of the type] having a water vapour diffusion resistance, which varies [in dependency of] with the relative humidity of air in contact therewith, such that the water vapour diffusion resistance is reduced when the relative humidity [increases, and vice versa.] of air increases, and is increased when the relative humidity of air decreases.
2. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of second through openings [(24,29)] are formed in said second water impervious membrane[(22)], and wherein each of said spaces [interconnecting] interconnect said first through openings [(21,28)] and said second through openings[(24,29)].
3. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 2, wherein the first through openings [(21,28)] are offset relative to said second through openings[(24,29)].
4. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of claims] claim 1[-3], wherein the first water impervious membrane [(19)] is substantially impervious to water vapour.
5. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of claims] claim 1[-4], wherein the first and second water impervious membranes [(19,22)] are connected to opposite sides of said water absorbing material, which [is in the form of] forms an intermediate layer[(18)].

6. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 5, wherein either the second through openings [(24,29)] cover a substantially larger area of the surface of the water absorbing material than the first through openings[(21,28)], whereby the vapour transport in the water vapour barrier in a direction from the second water impervious membrane to the first water impervious membrane is predominant, or the first through openings [(21,28)] cover a substantially larger area of the surface of the water absorbing material than the second through openings[(24,29)], whereby the vapour transport in the water vapour barrier in a direction from the first water impervious membrane to the second water impervious membrane is predominant.

7. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 5 [or 6], wherein the thickness of the intermediate layer [(18)] of water absorbing material is 0.2 [-]to 1.5 mm.

8. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of] claim 5[-7], wherein the intermediate layer [(18)] of water absorbing material [is] comprises a fibrous plastic material [comprising] including fibres having a hydrophobic fibre core.

9. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the water vapour diffusion resistance of the first water impervious membrane [(19)] is equivalent to 10-[100m] 100 m air column at any relative humidity of air in contact therewith.

10. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the first water impervious membrane is a film or foil[(19)].

11. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the first water impervious membrane [is made from] comprises a plastic or metallic material.

12. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 11, wherein the first water impervious membrane [(19) is made from] comprises polyethylene or polypropylene.

13. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 12, wherein the first water impervious membrane [(19)] comprises a polyethylene film having a weight of 20 [-100] to100 g/m²[, preferably 30-80 g/m²].

14. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the water vapour diffusion resistance of the second water impervious membrane [(22)] is equivalent to at least 2 m air column at a relative humidity of 20 [-]to 50% and less than 1 m air column at a relative humidity of 60 [-]to 100% of air in contact with the second water impervious membrane.

15. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 14, wherein the water vapour diffusion resistance of the second water impervious membrane [(22)] is equivalent to at least 5 m air column at a relative humidity of 20 [-]to 50%.

16. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 14 [or 15], wherein the water vapour diffusion resistance of the second water impervious membrane [(22)] is equivalent to less than 0.5 m air column, [preferably about 0.1 m or less,] at a relative humidity of 60 [-]to 100% of air in contact with the second water impervious membrane.

17. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said at least part of the second water impervious membrane [(22)] is made from at least one material [selected from the group consisting] comprising at least one of polyamide, ethylene-vinyl alcohol-copolymer, polyvinyl alcohol, polyurethane, protein derivatives, methyl cellulose, cellophane, linseed oil alkyd, and bone glue.

18. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, further comprising a moisture distributing outer layer [(25)] of water absorbing material, which is connected to the outer surface of said first water impervious membrane [(19)] or the second water impervious membrane[(22)].

19. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 18, wherein the outer layer [(25)] of water absorbing material is a fibrous, felt-like material.

20. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 19, wherein the thickness of the outer layer [(25)] of water absorbing material is less than 0.5 mm[, preferably about 0.1 mm].

21. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the first water impervious membrane [(19)] is formed by mutually parallel, transversely spaced first bands[(20)], the first through openings [(21)] being defined

22. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the second water impervious membrane [(22)] is formed by mutually parallel, transversely spaced second bands[(23)], [35] the second through openings [(24)] being defined between adjacent second bands[(23)].

24. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 22, wherein each of said second bands [(23)] has a width exceeding the width of a corresponding space [(21)] between adjacent first bands [(20)] and overlaps said space and adjacent rim portions of said adjacent first bands.

26. (Once Amended) A water vapour barrier according to claim 25, wherein the maximum transverse overlap is 70 mm.

28. (Once Amended) A method of making a water vapour barrier, said method comprising

applying to a first side surface of the layer of water absorbing, fibrous material [(18)] a plurality of transversely spaced, parallel first bands [(20)] of a first, [wafer] water impervious membrane material, and

applying to an opposite, second side surface of the layer of water absorbing, fibrous material [(18)] a plurality of transversely spaced, parallel second bands[(23)], at least some of which are comprised of a second membrane material, [which is of the type] said second membrane material having a water vapour diffusion resistance, which varies [in dependency of] with the relative moisture of air in contact therewith,

each of said second bands [(23)] having a width exceeding the width of a corresponding space [(21)] between adjacent first bands[(20) and], said second bands being applied so as to overlap said space and adjacent rim portions of said adjacent first bands.

29. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 28, wherein said first water impervious membrane material is substantially impervious to water vapour.

30. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 28 [or 29], wherein at least some of said first and second bands [(20,23) are] comprise films or foils which are adhered to the side surfaces of the layer of water absorbing fibrous material[(18)].

31. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 29 [or 30], wherein the first bands [(20)] are comprised of polyethylene films or foils which are connected to thermoplastic fibres of the layer [(18)] of water absorbing fibrous material by heating and fusing.

32. (Once Amended) A method according to [any of the claims] claim 28[-31], wherein at least some of the second bands [(23)] are fastened to the layer of water absorbing, fibrous material [(18)] by means of [a glue] an adhesive.

33. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 32, wherein net-like bands of a [suitable] polymer glue are interposed between said second bands [(23)] and the layer of water absorbing [material (18)]., fibrous material.